

while those with closed economies grew by only .7, less than 1 percent.

Other studies have concluded that nations with relatively open trade regimes grew roughly twice as fast as those with relatively closed regimes. According to a recent report of Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and Latin America, were each to increase their share of world exports by just 1 percent, the resulting gains in income would lift 128 million people out of poverty. The \$70 billion that Africa alone would generate is approximately five times the amount it gets through aid and debt relief. If developing countries as a whole increase their share of world exports by just 5 percent, this would generate \$350 billion, seven times as much as they receive in aid.

It is important that we now, more than ever, provide the President trade promotion authority.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, one of the issues that continues to haunt Americans is the whole question of the cost of prescription drugs. I have been troubled, as I have traveled across my State of Illinois, at the number of people I have met who are facing serious hardship trying to pay for their drugs.

There was a hearing in the city of Chicago where a lady came forward to tell a sad story of how once she had received her prescription drugs from her doctor, she realized the cost of the drugs were so much that on her fixed income under Social Security she could not take it. This lady was facing a particular hardship because she had received an organ transplant. If she failed to take the antirejection drugs, she stood the chance of dying or having even a worse medical condition.

Mr. President, do you know how she answered that particular dilemma? She moved into the basement of her children's home. She is living in the basement of her children's home so she does not have to pay for rent or utilities so she can have enough money to pay for the drugs to keep that new organ in her body that keeps her alive.

That is a tale of desperation which unfortunately highlights the challenge facing Congress as we need to find a way to make prescription drugs not only accessible but affordable.

There are many projected ideas out there and some of them are valuable and worth pursuing and some of them are certainly not. We have to keep in mind it is not just accessibility to the drugs, but it is also the price of the drugs, to say to someone, you have a right to buy the drugs, and we will help

you up to a certain extent, may be of little or no value if the price of the drugs is so high the person cannot afford it. That, unfortunately, is a reality.

Last year the cost of prescription drugs across America went up 16 percent.

Mr. President, try to imagine a program or even something in your home budget that you could deal with honestly with an annual increase in cost of 16 percent. So what we have tried to do on the Democratic side, as we address prescription drugs, is to go to the heart of the issue, to talk about the affordability of drugs, and to make certain the way we pay for these drugs is not at the expense of the people across America who need a helping hand.

Senator DEBBIE STABENOW of Michigan has been a leader on this issue. She held a press conference I attended last week and talked about a prescription drug approach which needs to be thoroughly considered. Right now across America pharmaceutical companies are buying ads on television, in magazines, and in newspapers talking about the importance of research for new drugs. Believe me, there is not a person in the Senate who does not agree with that.

We also know that many of these pharmaceutical companies are spending extraordinary amounts of money, in excess of their research budgets, for advertising. We see it every time we turn on the television, every time we open a magazine or a newspaper—full-page ads for new drugs. They show people dancing through a field of wildflowers and not sneezing, saying: Go to the doctor and ask for Claritin, or Clarinex, or Clarinet, or whatever happens to be the latest from Schering-Plough. When it comes to drugs such as Vioxx from Merck and other drugs, constantly we are bombarded with this information.

What Senator STABENOW has found is that pharmaceutical companies across America are spending two to three times as much on advertising as they are on research to find new drugs. Why should they be given a tax deduction for promotion, marketing, and advertising in excess of what they are spending for research? I do not think they should.

Frankly, I think we ought to call their bluff. If they tell us they need money for research, then for goodness' sake, put in it research. Give us the new drugs. Make the profits by giving us these kinds of blockbuster revelations of new drugs that can change our lives. But do not focus the money on advertising, promotion, and marketing when, frankly, all it does is create false need and false demand.

So as we consider the prescription drug challenge that faces us, let's be honest about the program we put together, that it is accessible and affordable, and let us also be honest about the source of the money. On the House side of the Rotunda, the Republicans have proposed a prescription drug bill

which is paid for by taking money from hospitals under Medicare and doctors across America. That is not the appropriate way to deal with it. We have to deal with it in an honest fashion so that the people of America are not shortchanged in terms of their health care.

I yield the floor.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my thanks to Senator BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY for accepting the Kennedy-Feinstein-Feingold amendment to trade promotion authority. Our amendment instructs our trade negotiators to respect the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health adopted by the World Trade Organization at the Fourth Ministerial Conference at Doha, Qatar.

This amendment is essential for the developing countries of the world as they confront public health crisis, such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The Doha declaration simply recognizes the right of these countries to use practices such as "compulsory licensing" to gain access to affordable pharmaceutical drugs. These practices are fully consistent with international law, specifically the TRIPS agreement which is the presumptive legal standard for intellectual property rights.

Without these practices, the vast majority of HIV/AIDS patients in the developing world would not be able to afford the more expensive drugs from American pharmaceutical companies and, as a result, they would suffer and die.

The statistics compel us to action. HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa. Worldwide, it is the fourth biggest killer. At the end of 2001, an estimated 40 million people globally were living with HIV/AIDS; there were 5 million new infections and 3 million deaths as a result of the disease. In the last twenty years, we have come a long way, but we are still losing because people are still dying.

Sub-Saharan Africa houses about 10 percent of the world's population but more than 70 percent of the worldwide total of infected people, 95 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases are of those living in developing countries.

An estimated 25.3 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and 19.3 million Africans have died of AIDS, including 2.3 million last year. This has meant an increase to a cumulative total of 12.1 million AIDS orphans, which is expected to increase to 42 million by the year 2010. An estimated 600,000 African infants become infected with HIV each year through mother-to-child transmission, either at birth or through breast-feeding.

These statistics are what they are in spite of the tools we have to ease the situation.

The Kennedy-Feinstein-Feingold amendment is by no means the perfect